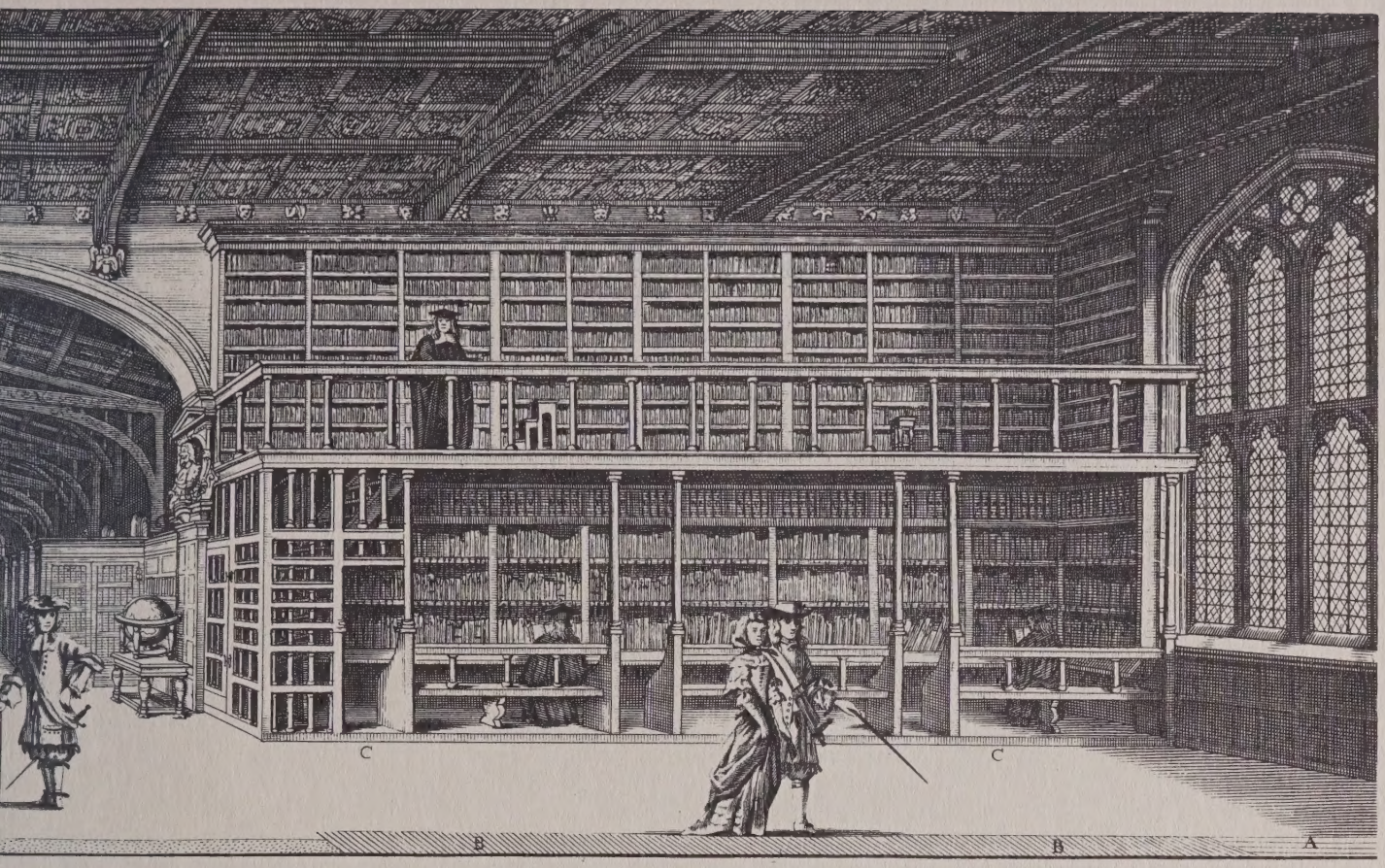
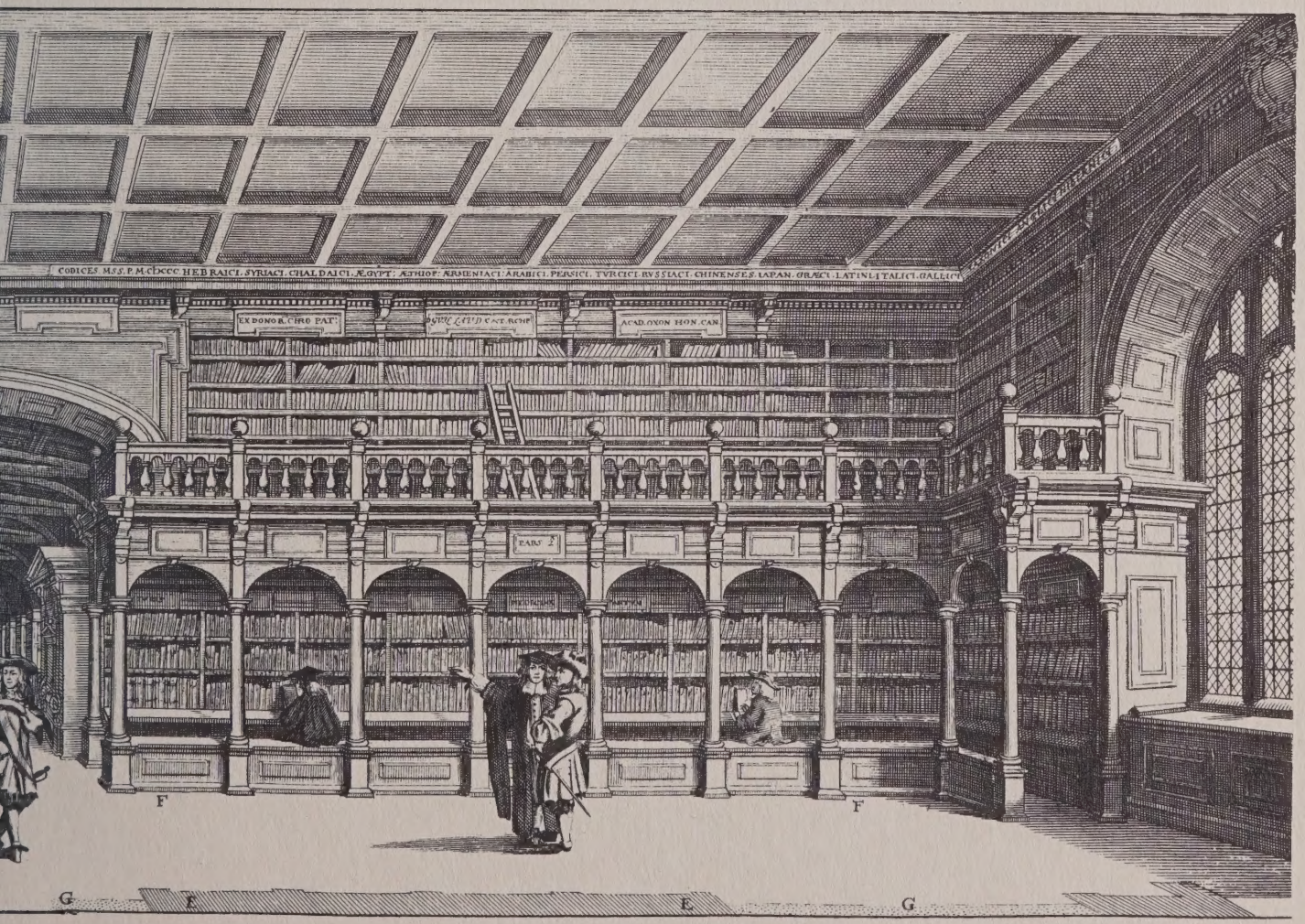


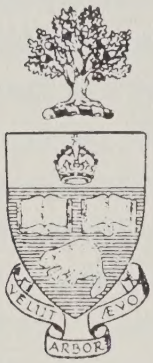
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Photo: Karen Taylor.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS



An exhibition in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections | The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto Library | November 1980

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In the fall of 1955 Marion E. Brown took up her position as Head of the newly created Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Toronto. She inherited the contents of the 'treasure-room', a small conglomeration of valuable books and manuscripts which had accumulated during the previous seventy years (since the University Library's disastrous fire in 1890) and set about establishing the department as an integral part of the library system and as a primary research resource of the University. The name chosen for the department was significant as the concept of 'special collections' was then in its early stages of development. Essentially, a special collection in this context was perceived as an accumulation of books, manuscripts, and sometimes other material, that focused on the work of a particular author or closely defined subject and attempted to bring together in one collection all that a scholar would require to conduct research on that subject at any level.

A primary source of acquisitions initially was the stack collection of the main library where scarce and valuable books abounded, but a policy of acquiring by purchase and by gift additional books and manuscripts to add to existing strengths and to establish new areas of research was quickly developed and the collections began to grow. The dramatic development of these collections, which parallels the development of the whole library system and the University of Toronto itself during the past twenty-five years, is suggested by this exhibition and provides the occasion for this celebration.

The responsibility for the founding of these collections and the growth of the department has been shared by a great many people over the past quarter-century. Marion Brown served as Head for twenty-one years, retiring in 1976. Her achievements included the establishment of a considerable staff to process, catalogue and service the collections as well as her direct participation in the steady acquisition of books and manuscripts to augment the increasingly important holdings. The members of the Department of Book Selection, and, in particular the Associate Librarian for Book Selection, David G. Esplin, have been intimately involved with the growth of the collections; the administration of the University Library, under the direction of the Chief Librar-

ian, Robert H. Blackburn, has provided facilities and continuing financial support as has the central administration of the University of Toronto; many faculty members have provided advice and encouragement; and, of course, private individuals and foundations have made donations that have been crucial to the growth of the collections. This exhibition pays tribute to all these people but most especially to the donors. The number of books displayed that have come as gifts is eloquent testimony to their invaluable support.

In 1973 the Department moved into the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, named after the great-grandfather of Sydney T. and Charles B. Fisher, whose magnificent collections constituted the greatest single donation the library has received. The building provided facilities for the proper care and handling of the books and manuscripts, climatic control, a restoration and conservation facility, adequate room for researchers and staff, and, most importantly, room for the collections to grow. And grow they did. The total number of printed books is now some two hundred thousand and there are, in addition, about three thousand linear feet of manuscripts.

This exhibition consists of a selection of items acquired during the past twenty-five years that illustrates the range, scope and richness of the collections. Each book and manuscript can be taken as indicative of a particular or general strength of the collections and each serves as the single representative of the thousands that reside on the shelves. Not even one example, however, from each of the many special collections could be displayed in the available exhibition space so the exhibition has been extended into the cases in the two first floor Reading Rooms. There will be found books and manuscripts from the John E. Langdon Collection of books on silver, the Robert S. Kenny Collection on the history of Canadian socialist movements, the Spanish Civil War Collection, the Juvenile Drama Collection, the Middle Hill Press Collection, the Victorian Natural History Collection, the Yellow-back Collection, the Jacob Bronowski Collection, the J.B. Tyrrell Collection, the George Miller Collection of architectural plans, the New Play Society Collection, and the Papyri Collection. All these collections have been acquired since

1955 and there are even more, briefly described in the *Guide to Collections* published by the Fisher Library.

This twenty-fifth anniversary is an occasion to pause and reflect on the accomplishments of the past. The pause, however, is only brief as the collections continue to grow, the research use of the books and manuscripts continues to expand and the next quarter-century promises to be as challenging and exciting as the first.

RICHARD G. LANDON

The Good Bishop

WILLIAM DE WYCUMBE. *Vita Venerabils Roberti Herefordensis.*
England, 13th century manuscript on vellum. Acquired in 1966.

Robert of Bethune, Bishop of Hereford, died in 1148. His contemporaries, including his Chaplain, William of Wycumbe, and later ecclesiastical historians, referred to him as 'the good bishop' because he stood out as a champion of justice and peace during a time of feudal conflict between the many civil and religious factions of England and Wales. In 1136 Robert refounded the Augustinian monastery of Llanthony in Gloucestershire where this manuscript was probably written during the first half of the thirteenth century. The canons of Llanthony had been driven from their first house in Monmouthshire by the anarchic conditions in the Welsh Marches during the reign of King Stephen. William of Wycumbe eventually became the fourth prior of Llanthony Secunda and three manuscripts of his life of Robert survive (the other two are in the Lambeth Palace Library and the British Library). The provenance of this one can be traced to a church in Hereford (possibly the Cathedral) and then to the collections of Dr Silas Taylor, a seventeenth century Herefordshire antiquary, and Thomas Bird, also of Hereford. At Bird's sale on March 8, 1837 the manuscript was purchased by Sir Thomas Phillipps, the greatest collector of manuscripts in modern times, and last appeared at auction in a 1965 Sotheby & Co. sale of Phillipps manuscripts. The manuscript is written in a large Gothic book hand and is decorated with red and blue flourishes and the occasional animal grotesque.

The Complete History of the World

HARTMANN SCHEDEL. *Liber Chronicarum.*
Nuremberg, 1493. Acquired in 1979: on extended loan from Hart House, University of Toronto.

The *Nuremberg Chronicle,* as it is commonly known, records the history of the world from the Creation to the beginning of the Renaissance and, although Schedel's text is essentially part of the medieval scholastic tradition, it does incorporate aspects of the new humanism then only recently introduced into Germany. It is a 'complete' history of the world, the events of 1493 being followed by six blank pages to allow the purchaser to fill in the brief chronicle of his own time, and then the whole is neatly concluded with an account of the Apocalypse and Day of Judgement. This work is not, however, remembered for its text. It is one of the greatest works of graphic art in the five hundred year history of printing,

the approximately six hundred and fifty woodcuts (reproduced a total of eighteen hundred times) complementing perfectly the heavy Gothic typeface used for its printing. The two artists responsible for the production were Michael Wolgemut and Wilhelm Pleydenwurff but obviously the work of many artists was utilized, including that of the young Albrecht Dürer. The printer was Anton Koberger, one of the great scholar-printers, whose consummate skill is demonstrated by the famous woodcut views of cities. In the Fisher Library collections it provides a cornerstone for Medieval and Renaissance history and for the study of early techniques of printing and illustration.

The First Printed Book on Agriculture

PIETRO DE CRESCENZI. *Ruralia Commoda.*
Speier, 1490-95. Acquired in 1964: gift of Royal Ontario Museum.

Crescenzi, a medieval Italian lawyer with a country estate near Bologna, composed this treatise on agriculture using various traditional works on husbandry, but treating them critically, based on his own experience as the proprietor of a large farm. The *Ruralia Commoda* was widely circulated in manuscript before the development of printing and became the first printed book on agriculture when it was issued at Augsburg in 1471. The Speier 1490-95 edition was the first to be illustrated, with woodcuts of many plants and scenes depicting specific rural tasks. Its coverage was comprehensive: soil fertility, general plant husbandry, grape-vines, trees, gardens, animal husbandry (including breeding and diseases), and hunting and fishing. Crescenzi's work proved durable and popular and was translated into Italian, French and German. Its presence in the Fisher Library collections provides a basis for holdings in the history of agriculture, the history of botanical medicine, and the history of book illustration. This copy survives in its original binding, oak boards backed with blind-stamped pigskin, and thus has additional significance as an example of an historical book binding.

non curet de eorum fossura et fimatione quam cespite nocumentum afferret. Cauendum est autem in bis ne sint arbores nimis spisse aut plurime secundum numerum quam ablatio aure sanitatem corrumpit. et ideo viridarium liberum aerem desiderat. et superflua vmbra infirmitates generat. amplius non sint arbores male sicut nux et quedam alie. sed sint dulces aromatice in flore. et iocunde in vmbra sicut sunt vites piri. mali. malapunica. lauri. cipressi et hmoi. post cespitem sit magna herbarum medicinalium et aromaticarum diuersitas. cum non modo delectet ex odore secundum olfactum. sed et flores diuersitate reficiunt visum. in quibus ruta pluribus locis admisceat. eo quod pulcre est viriditatis. et ipsa sua amaritudine fugat extra viridarium animalia venenosa. in medio autem cespitis nihil sit arborum. sed potius ipsa planicies libero gaudeat aere et sincero quia ille aer salubrior est. et etiam araneas tele extenso de ramo arborum ad ramum impedirent et inficerent vultus transeuntium si arbores in medio viridarij siue cespis plantatas haberet. Si autem possibile sit fons purissimus deriuetur in medium. quia ipsius puritas multam affert iocunditatem ad aquilonem et etiam ad orientem viridarium sit patulum. propter illorum ventorum sanitatem et puritatem. Ad oppositos autem ventos scilicet meridionalem et occidentalem sit clausum. propter eorum ventorum turbulentiam impuritatem et infirmitatem. quamuis etiam aquilonaris impediat fructus. miro tamen modo conseruat spiritus. et sanitatem custodit delectatio enim quaerit in viridario et non fructus.

Capitulum. ij. De viridarijs mediocribus et mediocrium personarum.

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The First Folio

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: *Comedies, Histories and Tragedies.*
London, 1623. Acquired in 1973: gift of Sydney T. Fisher through the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

It is generally considered unnecessary to describe in detail one of the most renowned products of the printing pess and the corner-stone of any collection of English Literature. The First Folio, published seven years after Shakespeare's death and edited by two of his friends and fellow actors, Hemminge and Condell, contains the first printing of eighteen of the thirty-six plays included. Its primary textual significance is indicated by the editors' statement: '... where (before) you were abus'd with diverse stolne, and surreptitious copies, maimed, and deformed by the frauds and stelthes of iniurious imposters, that expos'd them: even those, are now offer'd to your view cur'd, and perfect of their limbes; and all the rest, absolute in their numbers, as he conceived them.' This copy, from the Fisher Shakespeare Collection, is known as the Lady Drake copy because it was once owned by Eleanor, Lady Drake. Its provenance can be traced back to the eighteenth century when it resided in the collection of John Lloyd and it passed through the collections of John B. Thacher, Beverley Chew, Henry Huntington, Roderick Terry, and Harvey Frost.

The Most Indefatigable Man

WENCESLAUS HOLLAR. 'John the Baptist'.
London, 1642. Acquired in 1973: gift of Sidney T. Fisher through the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Wenceslaus Hollar, the 'Bohemian gentleman' who arrived in England in 1636, became the most skillful delineator of seventeenth century English life and fashion. His 'long views' of London before the Great Fire of 1666 are justly famous as the most accurate description of the London Shakespeare knew, but the 'indefatigable man', as Place referred to him, also drew and etched thousands of portraits, buildings, costumes and objects of natural history. The Fisher Collection of Hollar is comprehensive and the largest in North America. This pencil and crayon drawing of John the Baptist was Hollar's preliminary sketch for the etching of 1642. It is based on a drawing by Correggio in the collection of Hollar's first English patron, the Earl of Arundel. A permanent exhibition of Hollar etchings from this collection is on display in the Reading Rooms.

Pietro de Crescenzi. *Ruralia Commoda.*

The Master of Ancient Knowledge

ARISTOTLE. *Opera* (Liber Thopicorum).
Augsburg, 1479. Acquired in 1972.

The influence of the Aristotelian canon during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries was profound and pervasive with hundreds of editions and commentaries pouring from the newly acquired printing presses. Aristotle's natural philosophy had, unlike the work of most other classical writers, retained its authority through the Medieval period, normally in Latin translations. This edition of the *Topics* constituted the first printed version; the original Greek not appearing until the great Aldine edition of 1495-8. The Fisher Library possesses an extensive collection of the important editions of Aristotle's works, particularly rich in the commentaries of Medieval and Renaissance scholars and relating closely to other collections in the history of science and philosophy. This copy once belonged to Sir Sydney Cockerell, the well-known manuscript scholar and Director of the Ashmolean Museum and was bound for him in full brown morocco by his brother, the equally famous Douglas Cockerell.

All Knowledge To Be My Province

SIR FRANCIS BACON. *Instauratio Magna.*
London, 1620. Acquired in 1973.

Bacon's most influential work, the *Novum Organum* (literally 'the New Instrument') was designed to provide a whole new basis for scientific method. The famous engraved title page, a ship in full sail passing through the Pillars of Hercules from the old world to the new, symbolized Bacon's intention to provide a 'total reconstruction of sciences, arts, and all human knowledge'. As a philosopher he most directly influenced Locke, and such scientists as Boyle, Leibniz, and Huygens paid eloquent tribute to his vision of truly experimental science. He was also a lawyer who became Lord Chancellor, an essayist still read as a model of English prose style, and a statesman who suffered the vicissitudes of political life. This copy of the *Novum Organum* is one of the few printed on large paper and bound in contemporary vellum. It is part of a sizeable collection of Bacon's works and books relating to his work and complements other holdings in seventeenth century philosophy and science.

Sir Francis Bacon. *Instauratio Magna.*

FRANCISCI
DE VERULAMIO,
Summi Angliæ
CANCELLARII,
Instauratio
magna.
Multi pertransibunt & augebitur scientia.
Anno.
LONDINI
Apud Joannem Billium
Typographum
Regium.
1620.

This Artificial Man the Common-Wealth

THOMAS HOBBES. *Leviathan.*
London, 1651. Acquired in 1967.

Hobbes's *Leviathan* produced an extraordinary and controversial upheaval in English political philosophy, well demonstrated by the large number of assailants it aroused; was banned, then pirated and has continued to be influential to the present day. His long life spanned the Armada to the Restoration and his greatest work was, in many ways, the product of the troubled times he lived through. Hobbes saw the state as an 'artificial man', a monster made up of individuals whose reason gave coherent form to the 'common-wealth' but whose passions could destroy it. The famous engraved title-page symbolized the state in the form of the king holding sway over the people of whom he was composed. In Hobbes's view, the individual should always submit to the state, except to save his own life. Hobbes wrote and translated a number of other books on many subjects, all of which the Fisher Library collection contains. An unpublished scientific poem, in his own hand, called *De Motibus Solis* and dedicated to the 3rd Earl of Devonshire, Hobbes's pupil and patron, is unique.

The Extent of Humane Knowledge

JOHN LOCKE. *An Essay Concerning Humane Understanding.*
London, 1690. Acquired in 1971.

Locke's *Essay* was one of the first modern attempts to analyse the whole range of human knowledge and provided a basis for the subsequent investigations of Hume and Kant. His purpose was 'to enquire into the Original, Certainty and Extent of humane knowledge', which he went on to discuss under the headings 'of Ideas', 'of Words', and 'of Knowledge and Opinion'. He concluded that although man's knowledge is insufficient to completely comprehend the universe he is not completely at the mercy of pure chance. The Locke collection at the Fisher Library is comprehensive, including, for example, the run of editions of the *Essay* from the first of 1690 through the tenth of 1731. This copy of the second edition, 'with large additions', suggests a particularly evocative association as it was presented by Locke to Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, the seventeenth-century Scottish patriot and agricultural reformer.

Thomas Hobbes. *Leviathan.*

Non est potestas Super Terram quæ Comparetur ei Iob. 41. 24.

LEVIATHAN

Or

THE MATTER, FORME and POWER of A COMMON-WEALTH ECCLESIASTICALL and CIVIL.

By THOMAS HOBBES of MALMESBURY.

London
Printed for Andrew Crooke
1651.

The Greatest Mechanick in the World

ROBERT HOOKE. *Micrographia.*
London, 1665. Acquired in 1972.

The *Micrographia,* the first English work on the microscope, is a primary source for the history of chemistry, physics, biology and astronomy. Hooke was the first to observe cells and proposed an explanation of the twinkling of stars, a theory of light refraction, and a theory of heat. He invented the compound microscope and the wheel barometer. The engraved plates, however, provide the most obvious attraction of the book. They are the work of the author himself and most of them illustrate objects seen through the microscope: the eye of a fly, a flea, a louse, a bookworm, pollen, seeds, etc. Hooke was one of the most versatile and brilliant of the galaxy of English scientists who formed the Royal Society and his works form an important part of the Fisher Library's collections of these writers. This fine copy of the first issue of the first edition is from the famous scientific library of E.N. da C. Andrade.

Two Entire Sciences, All New

GALILEO GALILEI. *Discorsi e Dimostrazioni Matematiche.*
Leiden, 1638. Acquired in 1970.

Galileo's greatest scientific work, although he is most often remembered for the 1632 *Dialogo,* was written while he was under house-arrest. It was published in Leiden by Elzevir because he was unable to obtain an ecclesiastical licence to have it printed in Italy. In it he examines mathematically the sciences of physics and mechanics, and, in particular, motion. The *Two New Sciences,* as the work is generally known in English, provided a basis for the later work of Huygens and Newton in the science of dynamics and Galileo's work can thus be considered the first of a series of key books that culminates in Einstein's *Theory of Relativity.* The Fisher Library has recently established the Stillman Drake Galileo Collection, based on the internationally renowned collection of Professor Stillman Drake, and thus is able to strengthen considerably its holdings in the history of science.

Robert Hooke. *Micrographia.*

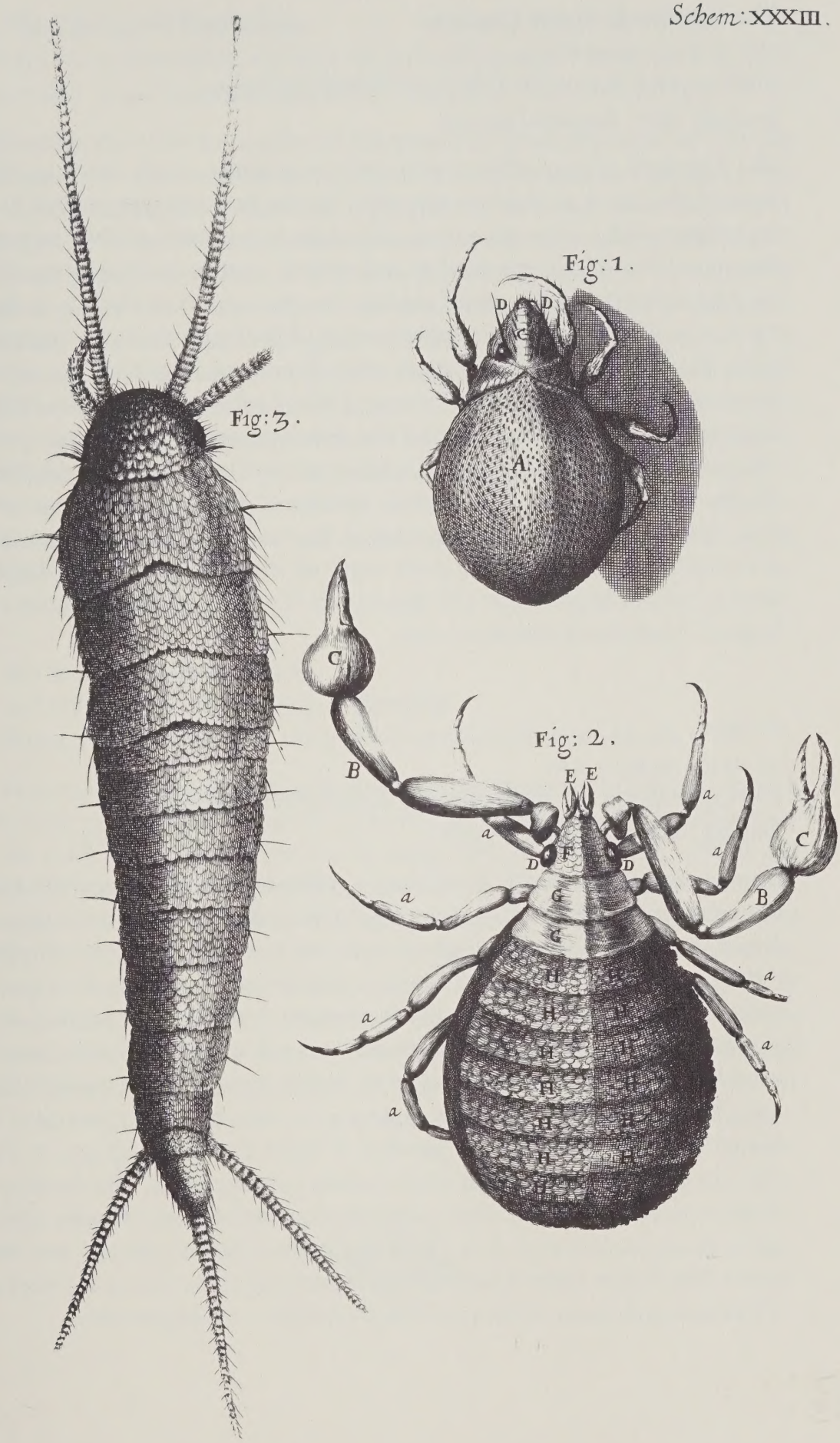
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Fig: 3.

The Synthesis of the Cosmos

SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

Philosophia Naturalis Principia Mathematica.

London, 1687. Acquired in 1971.

The *Principia* is generally considered the greatest single work in the history of science as Newton was able, for the first time, to explain the basic laws of the universe and provide a great synthesis of the cosmos. The laws of universal gravitation and motion were presented as mathematical concepts which could explain the movement of objects on the earth as well as the dramatic phenomena of the heavens. In its original Latin the *Principia* has been more often honoured than read, for even Newton himself admitted that it was 'a hard book'. Its system remained supreme for two centuries, until the demonstration of the theory of relativity by Einstein, but the principles and methods are still essential for the solution of many scientific problems. Newton's achievement was, in many ways, the culmination of the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century and the early work of the members of the Royal Society, whose imprimatur also appears on the title page in the name of Samuel Pepys, its president in 1686.

$e=mc^2$

ALBERT EINSTEIN.

Die Grundlage der allgemeinen Relativitätstheorie.

Leipzig, 1916. Acquired in 1968.

Einstein's 'special' theory of relativity, published in 1905, was directed towards resolving inconsistencies arising from the Newtonian system in electrodynamics and optics and, indeed, was not called a theory of 'relativity' at all. In the 'General Theory of Relativity', published in 1916, Einstein applied the theory to gravitation and attempted to explain the paradoxes of the Newtonian universe in such a way that the theory would be capable of experimental proof, verification of which occurred in 1919. Einstein's deduction that matter is a form of energy and that a quantity of energy equals the product of mass times the square of the velocity of light ($e=mc^2$) had tremendous consequences. The development of atomic reactors, where a transformation of mass releases enormous amounts of energy, has provided electrical power stations and the bomb. The Fisher Library possesses an extensive collection of the works of Einstein and many of the related works of his contemporaries.

The Theory of Evolution

CHARLES DARWIN. *On The Origin of Species.*
London, 1859. Acquired in 1967.

Possibly the other contender for the title of the greatest single work in the history of science, Darwin's *Origin,* unlike Newton's *Principia,* was widely read and hotly debated. It proposed a theory of natural selection, based on extensive and close observation of nature, which could be universally applied, to man as well as to plants and animals. Humans were thus placed in a relationship to all other living things that shook traditional scientific and theological beliefs to their very foundations. The effects of Darwinism were profound and far-reaching, providing a basis for much of the research in biology since his time and directly influencing research in many other fields. The Darwin Collection at the Fisher Library is comprehensive, including all the different editions of each of his books and a large collection of the works of his predecessors, contemporaries (both supporters and opponents), and later books based on his theories.

Art is Long, Life is Short

HIPPOCRATES. *Octoginta Volumina.*
Rome, 1525. Acquired in 1973: gift of the Hannah Foundation.

Hippocrates, who is popularly known as the 'Father of Medicine', gave to Greek medicine its scientific spirit and its ethical ideals. The Hippocratic Oath still remains the classic expression of the duties, ethics and moral standards of the medical profession. This is the first complete edition of the Hippocratic writings containing eighty books and edited by M. Fabius Calvus. The most famous section is that called the 'Aphorisms', containing the well-known expressions 'art is long, life is short' and 'desperate diseases require desperate remedies'. This key text is part of the Jason A. Hannah Collection in the History of Medical and Related Sciences, a collection established in memory of Dr Hannah by Associated Medical Services and supported by the Hannah Foundation.

Great Generations Selfe Is Now Thy Heire

WILLIAM HARVEY. *Exercitationes de Generatione Animalium.* London, 1651. Acquired in 1976: gift of the Hannah Foundation.

Harvey, who achieved his greatest fame as the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, also made significant contributions to embryology, including the first formulation of the theory of epigenesis. He was able to prove that the organism does not exist encased or pre-formed in the ovum, but is evolved from it, and also was able to contradict the ancient concept of spontaneous generation. The engraved frontispiece to this first edition contains a representation of Jove seated on a pedestal and holding in his hand an egg inscribed 'ex ovo omnia', a reference to Harvey's insistence that all life is generated from eggs. The Fisher Library's Hannah Collection contains an especially strong representation of books on gynecology and obstetrics of which this work is one of the most important.

The Ideal State

JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU. *Du Contract Social.* Amsterdam, 1762. Acquired in 1971.

Rousseau's most influential, although not perhaps his most popular, work was written to expound his theories of egalitarian government. In the Age of Reason he advocated the force of intuition and pleaded the equality of all men in the state. He was at odds with most of the beliefs of his time and often with the people he encountered but the emotional qualities of his writings have maintained an appeal to the present day. The Fisher Library possesses a large and important collection of Rousseau, including some manuscripts, which complements other holdings in French philosophy, political science and literature.

The Spirit of the 'Philosophers'

FRANÇOIS MARIE AROUET DE VOLTAIRE: *La Henriade.* London, 1728. Acquired in 1979: gift of Professor Harcourt Brown.

Voltaire, during the course of a long life, wrote and published voluminously in most literary genres and on many subjects. His lively scepticism typifies the spirit of the 'philosophe' movement and was popular with his contemporaries. In 1726 Voltaire was forced to flee France and went to London where he enjoyed the traditional English toleration of eccentricity and wrote his famous *Letters Concerning the English Nation.* He also published in London *La Henriade,* an epic poem on King Henri IV of

France, which had previously appeared in 1723 under the title *La Ligue.* The Fisher Library has recently received as a gift from Professor Harcourt Brown an extensive Voltaire collection which will provide additional strength in several areas.

Italian and English Literature

GIOVANNI BOCCACCIO. *Il Decamerone.*
Venice, 1548. Acquired in 1970.

This important edition of Boccaccio's famous poem was edited by Francesco Sansovino, the prominent literary figure and historian. It contains a biography of the author and a 'vocabulary' of difficult terms used by Boccaccio. This copy is of particular interest because of its several thousand marginal annotations which consist of English translations of Italian words and expressions and provide an important link between Elizabethan English and Italian literature. This book belonged to Sir Thomas Lucy, a grandson of the Sir Thomas Lucy who allegedly prosecuted Shakespeare for stealing a deer. He was a member of Parliament with literary tastes, travelled extensively, and possessed an extensive library of Italian and French books. One of the first special collections formed at the University of Toronto Library was in Italian literature, particularly plays and *rime* of the Renaissance period, and it has been built up systematically over many years.

The Founder of Humanism

FRANCESCO PETRARCA. *Trionfi e Canzioniere.*
Venice, 1484. Acquired in 1967.

Petrarch is generally regarded as one of the world's great poets, a model and an inspiration to many of his successors throughout Europe. Equally important is his position at the threshold of the Renaissance, describing and responding to Italian life of the fourteenth century but also initiating amongst his contemporaries the sympathetic contact with classical learning that heralded the new humanism. His *Canzoniere,* including the Sonnets written for the divine Laura, and the *Trionfi,* allegorical poems of Love, Death, Fame and Time, circulated widely in manuscript before the advent of printing and were then published many times during the fifteenth century. This edition of 1484 contains, besides the poems, extensive commentaries by Lapini, Filelfo and Squarciafico. It is beautifully printed in an Italian version of Gothic type and is one of the foundation works of the Fisher Library's extensive collections of Italian literature.

COMINCIA LA TERZA GIORNATA DEL DECAMERONE,

NELLA QVALE SI RAGIONA SOTTO IL REGIMENTO DI NEIPHILE DI CHI ALCVNA COSA MOLTO DA LVI DISIDERATA CON INDVSTRIA ACQVISTASSE, O LA PERDVTA RICOVERASSE.

TERZA GIORNATA.

L'AVRORA GIA DI VERMIGLIA cominciaua, appressandosi il Sole, a diuenir rancia: quando la Domenica la Reina leuata, & fatta tutta la sua compagnia leuare; & hauendo gia il siniscalco gran pezzo dauanti mandato al luogo, doue andar doueano, assai delle cose opportune; & chi quiui preparasse quello, che bisognaua; ueggendo gia la Reina in camino, prestamente fatta ogn'altra cosa caricare, quasi quindi il campo leuato, con la salmeria n'andò, & con la famiglia rimasa appresso delle Donne & de Signori. La Reina adunque con lento passo accompagnata, & seguita dalle sue Donne & da i tre giouani alla guida del canto di forse uenti usigniuoli & altri uccelli per una uietta non troppo usata, ma

Arbiter of Elegance

PETRONIUS ARBITER. *Satyrici Fragmenta.*
Venice, 1499. Acquired in 1960: gift of Professor Gilbert Bagnani.

The *Satyricon,* as the accumulation of fragments by Petronius, the Roman writer of the age of Nero, are called, is one of the most frequently republished of classical works. The use of elegant Silver Age Latin to express the union of a sensual debauched life-style with richly cynical humour has maintained its appeal through the centuries. This 'second edition' (the same fragments had previously appeared in a collection called *Scriptores Panegyrici Latini* published around 1482) pairs Petronius with an oration by Dio Chrysostom and can be considered the first separate edition. The Fisher Library's collection of Petronius was formed by Professor Gilbert Bagnani and contains virtually every significant edition of this complicated text.

Mr Forbes's Remains

JAMES FORBES. *Pastoral Instructions: Being Some Remains of the Reverend James Forbes.*
London, 1713. Acquired in 1967.

Very few of the libraries of English Nonconformists of the seventeenth century survive intact, a notable exception being that of James Forbes of Gloucester. He lived from about 1629 to 1712 and continued his ministry for over fifty years, despite considerable harassment, including imprisonment. His library of some sixteen hundred volumes is of great value because it was the working collection of a scholar and divine which reflected directly the religious and political controversies of the latter half of the seventeenth century. Most of the books are signed by Forbes with his initials and his curious motto 'Suprema Optima: Fugit hora, Ora labora, Spe Expecto'. He did not publish many works himself but did leave, for the guidance of his parishioners, his posthumous *Pastoral Instructions.* There are few 'great books' in the library, purchased *en bloc* by the University of Toronto, but three early pamphlets by Daniel Defoe illustrate some of the important research material contained in it: *A New Test of the Church of England's Honesty* (1704), *The Christianity of the High-Church Consider'd* (1704), and *More Short Ways With the Dissenters* (1704). Mr Forbes's remains could well be considered to be his library; lovingly collected and miraculously preserved.

Giovanni Boccaccio. *Il Decamerone.*

The Classic of Modern Economic Thought

ADAM SMITH. *An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations.*
London, 1776. Acquired in 1968.

The *Wealth of Nations* is the first coherent expression of the theory that the individual has the right to be unimpeded in the exercise of economic activity and thus forms the basis of our economic system. Smith, the professor of moral philosophy, occupied a central position in the intellectual movement that has come to be known as the Scottish Enlightenment of the eighteenth century. He was able to bring to his study of economics the sophisticated philosophy of his time and thus provide an analysis that has maintained this work as the classic text in its field. It also occupies a central position in the extensive and important Fisher Library collections of British philosophy, history and literature of the eighteenth century.

The Biographical Part of Literature

JAMES BOSWELL. *The Life of Samuel Johnson.*
London, 1791. Acquired in 1968.

The greatest biography in the English language was carefully planned by Boswell almost from the moment he met Johnson. Boswell realized that Johnson's favourite activity was talking; his became the asking of questions that would elicit memorable conversation. The results, published some seven years after the subject's death, constituted the first attempt at writing such a detailed study of a famous figure and its success was guaranteed from the day it appeared. Without Boswell Johnson would have been remembered as one of the great literary figures of his age; with Boswell Johnson emerges complete with his prejudices and harshness but also with his wit, charm and humaneness. This magnificent copy of the *Life* is uncut in its original boards, appearing much as it looked on the day it left Mr Dilly's shop.

The Poet Laureate

JOHN DRYDEN. *All For Love.*
London, 1678. Acquired in 1975.

Dryden, the Poet Laureate and one of the most prominent literary figures of his time, wrote this, his finest play, in blank verse. It was acted, with great success, late in 1677 and tells the story of Antony and Cleopatra. Although the title-page says that it is written 'in imitation of Shakespeare's stile' Dryden's treatment of the tale of fatal love is very different from Shakespeare's. The collection of Dryden's many works in the Fisher Library is considerable, as is the collection of late seventeenth and eighteenth century drama.

The People's Poet

ROBERT BURNS. *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect.*
Kilmarnock, 1786. Acquired in 1968.

The first edition of Burns's poems, published by a small press in Kilmarnock, secured his permanent fame over-night. Composed in the language of the common people and celebrating with gusto the common concerns of the majority, the poems have become the symbol of Scottish life all over the world. 'Burns Night', the international celebration when songs are sung and poems are declaimed is a unique celebration of the life and work of a poet. The Fisher Library collections contain many editions of Burns's *Poems* and the work of his contemporaries.

The Northwest Passage

THOMAS JAMES. *The Strange and Dangerous Voyage.*
London, 1633. Acquired in 1966.

James was commissioned in 1631 by a group of Bristol merchants to discover the 'Northwest Passage into the South Seas' and sailed to the Arctic with only one small ship and a crew of twenty-two men. Bad weather forced the expedition far south into Hudson's Bay and they spent a miserable winter in the bay later named after James. The voyage was a failure to the merchants but new territories had been explored and mapped, and the account remains one of the sagas of Arctic exploration. The map, which is often missing from copies of this book, depicts the route of the voyage, 'Iames his Baye', and includes a portrait of the author. The work is one of many in the Fisher Library collections on all aspects of the discovery and exploration of Canada.

Arctic Exploration

OWEN STANLEY. *The Drawings Made by Captain Owen Stanley when on the Arctic Expedition Commanded by Sir George Back in H.M.S. 'Terror' 1836 and 1837.*
Acquired in 1971.

Owen Stanley, who ended his career as Captain of the famous ship *Rattlesnake,* sailed with Captain Back as the Second Lieutenant on his voyage for the discovery of the elusive North-West Passage in 1836. The ship became stuck in the Arctic ice, sustained serious damage, and was only with great difficulty sailed back to England. Back's *Narrative* of the voyage was published in 1838 with illustrations by William Smyth, the First Lieutenant. This album of thirty-eight magnificent drawings (twenty-seven of them water-colours) by Stanley remains unpublished, as does his manuscript *Journal* which accompanies it. The album and journal together constitute a primary research resource for the study of an important aspect of Canadian history.

Canadian Literary Manuscripts

EARLE BIRNEY. *David,* 1942.
MARGARET ATWOOD. *The Circle Game,* 1964.

The Fisher Library attempts to collect Canadian literature exhaustively and has a very large assemblage of poetry, fiction and drama from all periods of Canadian literature. This collection of books is supplemented by the literary papers of several of the well known Canadian writers including Earle Birney and Margaret Atwood. Birney's *David,* the first of his many distinguished books of poetry, is exhibited with the author's own copy, extensively annotated, and an original typescript. The holograph of one of the poems in Atwood's *Circle Game* is displayed with the first edition, illustrated and privately printed by Charles Pachter and issued in an edition of only fifteen copies.

Owen Stanley

Canadian Graphic Art

THOREAU MACDONALD. *Farm Drawings.*
[Thornhill] 1971. Acquired in 1974: gift of Margaret E. Edison through the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Thoreau MacDonald, during his long artistic career, has privately published a number of small books. His drawings, which evoke the heritage of rural Ontario, have also adorned the books of many writers. The original art-work for one of the pages of *Farm Drawings* is shown with the published version. The Edison Collection, containing examples of almost all MacDonald's published work, as well as some originals, enhances the Fisher Library's collections of Canadian literature and graphic art.

Modern Literature

RUDYARD KIPLING. *Schoolboy Lyrics.*
Lahore, 1881. Acquired in 1973:
gift of Charles B. Fisher through the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Kipling's scarce first book was issued for private circulation by his parents in India while he was still a schoolboy in England. It contained twenty-three poems that displayed, even at that early date, many of the characteristics associated with Kipling's mature, and very popular, poems. It has never been ascertained exactly how many copies of *Schoolboy Lyrics* were printed, but probably less than fifty and, because of its ephemeral format, very few have survived. Charles Fisher's large Kipling collection complements the modern English literature collections (most particularly the Endicott Collection) that have been a major interest of the Library for many years.

The Anglo-Irish Renaissance

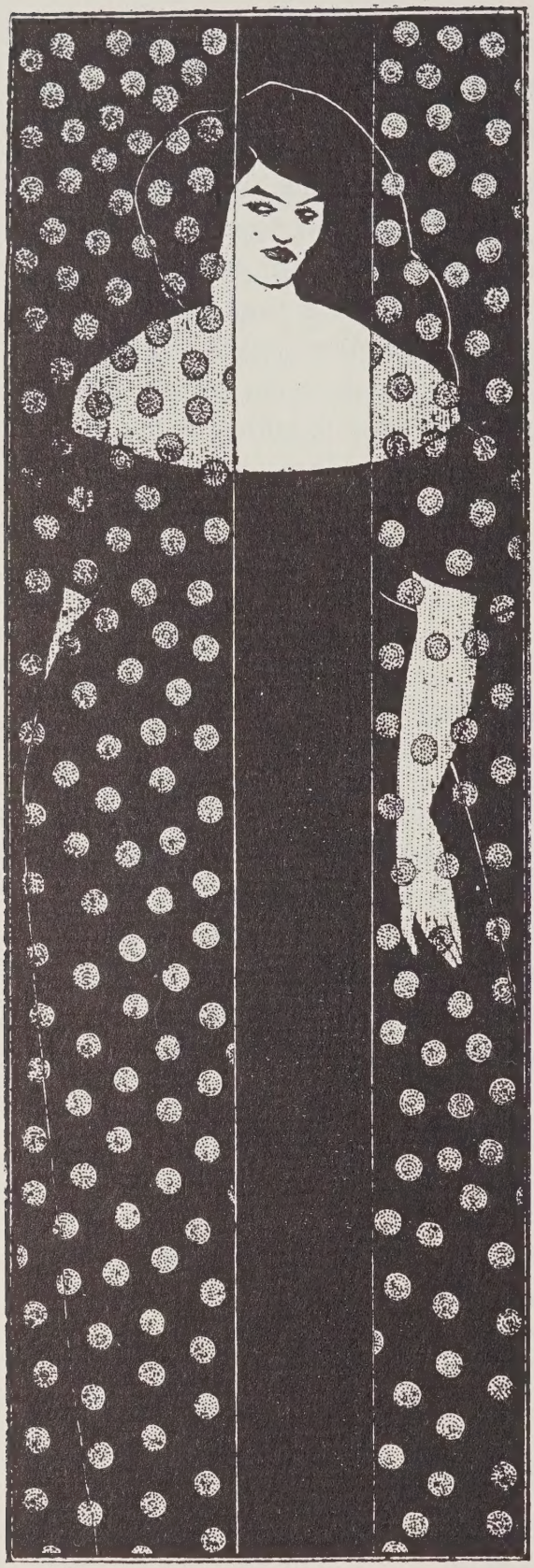
W. B. YEATS. *The Land of Heart's Desire.*
London, 1894 and Chicago, 1894. Acquired in 1955:
gift of the estate of Alfred T. DeLury.

The first play by Yeats to be produced on the stage was acted on March 29th, 1894 at the Avenue Theatre. It was published in April of the same year by T. Fisher Unwin, with the design that Aubrey Beardsley had produced for the theatre poster occupying half the title-page. In August of 1894 Stone & Kimball of Chicago brought out the first American edition, Beardsley's design being used as a frontispiece. Yeats is the central figure in the Fisher Library's DeLury Collection, the basis of which was formed by Dean A.T. DeLury of the University of Toronto. It was the first major collection to be acquired by the newly formed Rare Books and Special Collections Department in 1955.

The Master of Max Gate

THOMAS HARDY. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles.*
London, 1891. Acquired in 1975: gift of Professor Norman J. Endicott.

Hardy's 'shocking book' was first published serially in the *Graphic* from July 4th to December 26th, 1891. It was there extensively bowdlerized and two whole episodes were omitted entirely. When the first edition appeared in three volumes during the week of November 29th, 1891 the missing sections were restored. The one thousand copies of this 'first impression' sold quickly and a 'second impression' of five hundred copies, with many alterations, was published in February of 1892. Superficially both these impressions appear to be the same with an identical, and attractive, art nouveau binding design. The Endicott Collection, named after the late Professor of English at the University of Toronto who was a consistent supporter of and donor to the collections, consists of the works of a large number of English writers of the period 1880 to 1930. All significant variants of each book are being brought together to facilitate detailed bibliographical, textual and critical research.



THE LAND OF HEART'S DESIRE

BY

W. B. YEATS

LONDON: T. FISHER UNWIN, PATERNOSTER SQUARE. MDCCCXCIV

The Modern Novel

D. H. LAWRENCE. *Women in Love.*
New York, 1920 and corrected typescript. Acquired in 1970:
gift of the estate of Douglas M. Duncan.

Like most of Lawrence's novels *Women in Love* had a difficult period of gestation and a most complicated publishing history. It first appeared in New York as a 'privately printed' volume under the supervision of Thomas Seltzer, then in England as a Martin Secker trade edition with many textual alterations, and has continued in print in a slightly garbled version. From the estate of Douglas M. Duncan the Library received one of the three extant corrected typescripts, heavily annotated by Lawrence, which has been used to prepare a complete and scholarly edition of the book, shortly to be published. The Duncan Collection in the Fisher Library consists of the works of five authors (Beerbohm, Aldington, Huxley, Norman Douglas, and Lawrence) and together with the DeLury and Endicott collections constitutes the strong holdings in modern British literature. All the writers represented in these collections are being gathered in depth: that is, all editions of each of their books: important criticism, biography and ephemeral material.

The Book Binder's Art

BIRDSALL AND SON. Collection of Bookbinders' Finishing Tools.
Aquired in 1968.

The Birdsall family conducted a hand book binding business in Northampton, England from the late eighteenth century until the middle of the twentieth. Its collection of some three thousand tools was built up over five generations and some of them were probably manufactured during the early part of the eighteenth century. As the firm prospered during the nineteenth century it produced a large number of elaborate design bindings, intricately tooled in gold, and this tradition continued into the twentieth century. The collection, one of the finest on this continent, was acquired from the last head of the firm and has been supplemented by several examples of the Birdsalls' work. The tools are now used by the Rare Book Binder of the Fisher Library to reproduce the binding styles of the past for the restoration and rebinding work that is a continuing part of the function of the library.

W.B. Yeats. *The Land of Heart's Desire*

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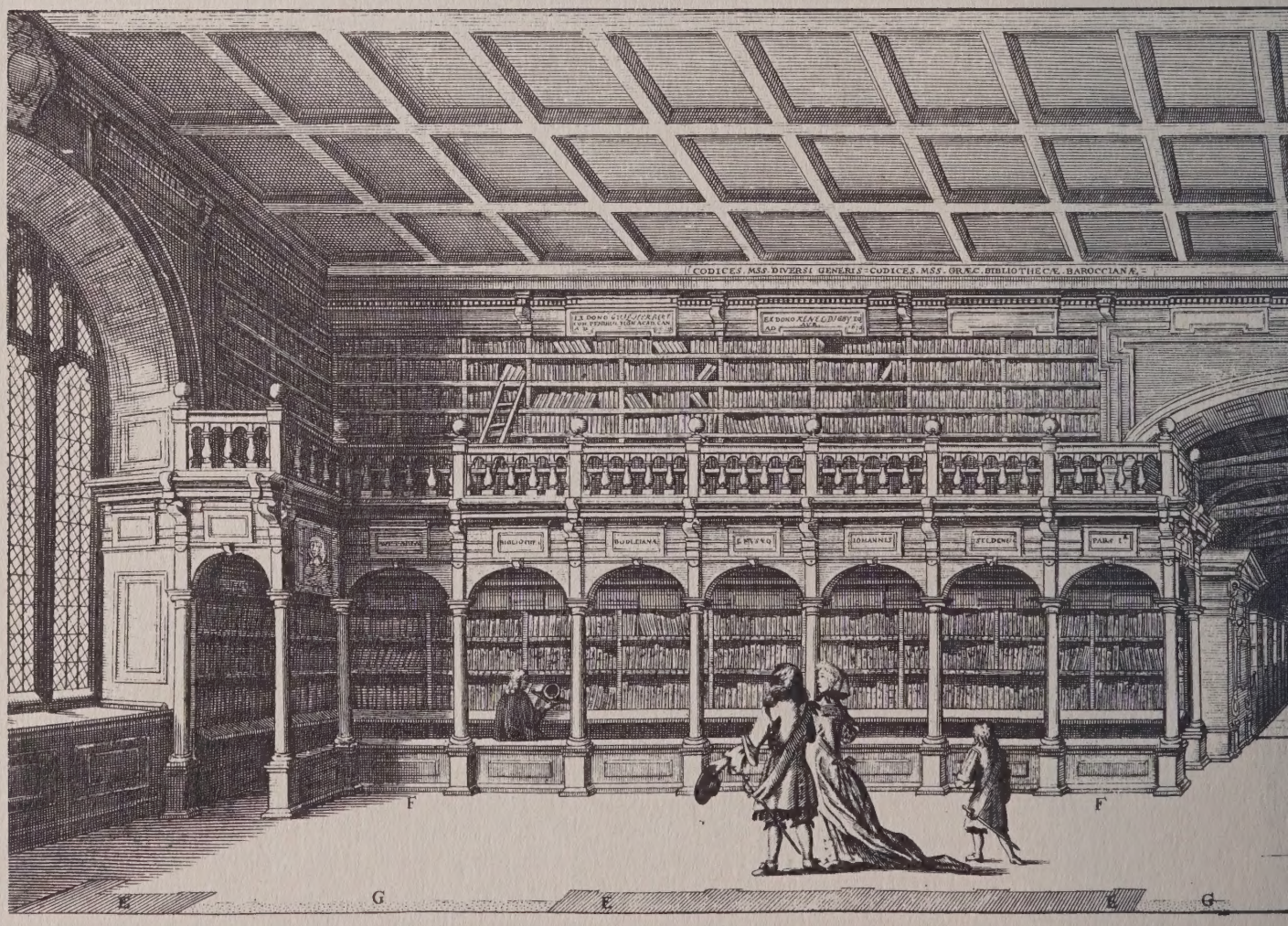
October 1980

The ornaments
used throughout this catalogue
are reproduced from
impressions of tools from the Birdsall Collection
of bookbinders' finishing tools.

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library